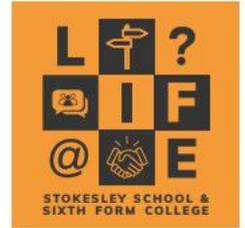


Larger than LIFE

Stokesley school's weekly LIFE bulletin



Stokesley School
& Sixth Form College
Being the best we can be



Week beginning 4th January 2021

Edition Thirteen

Half Term 3: New beginnings

Just a short bulletin from Team LIFE this week, to welcome you back to school and to say that we hope you had just the most wonderful Christmas break. Our focus for the half term is **New Beginnings** and, after what was a challenging 2020 for all of us, we are excited to get our teeth into 2021 and see what it has to offer!

Next week's bulletin is going to be about looking **forward**, about making New Year's Resolutions and about planning for the future, but before we do that we think it's worth looking back at some of the **good** that came out of 2020. We've picked 20 things (because it was 2020!), but there were loads more that we could have had!

Enjoy browsing!

1	For the first time ever, renewable electricity exceeded fossil fuel generation during the first half of 2020! Fossil Fuel use fell by 18%, and renewable energy increased by 11% too.
2	In May, Moonpig launched a campaign for Mental Health Awareness Week, encouraging people to see 'the hidden message', and to feel comfortable opening up. It gave out 25,000 free postcards as part of its mission to prompt people to reach out
3	Chelsea Women's FC donated their £100,000 prize money for winning the league to the charity Refuge, the UK's largest provider of domestic abuse services.
4	To lift spirits during lockdown, IKEA published the recipe for it's iconic meatballs so that people could make them at home!
5	More women than ever are directing films - a report in January revealed that twice as many directors of 2019's top grossing films were female compared to 2018.
6	An amazing seven mountain gorilla babies were born in a Ugandan national park - more than twice as many in 2019!
7	In March after 240 days, New South Wales in Australia was finally free of bushfires.
8	In Africa, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature announced on March 19 that the African black rhino, a critically endangered species, is doing a little better this

	year than it was eight years ago. Their population numbers have risen from 4,845 in 2012 to 5,630 this year.
9	A mother-son team from India have gone viral with their Instagram account that shares wholesome and heartwarming motherly advice. Poonam and her son Pranav set up the 'Mother With Sign' account in January, sharing photos of Poonam holding signs with relatable and funny words of wisdom – and have now got more than 150,000 followers. One of our favourites is: “Even marathons are run one step at a time.
10	In September, LEGO announced its plans to phase out its use of single-use plastic bags and switch to recyclable, sustainably-sourced paper bags instead.
11	In Edinburgh, Scotland, a small village of 11 houses has been built on vacant land - with full time support staff - to create a safe community for the homeless and to help rehabilitate people.
12	Many of us found a new love of nature this year, as demonstrated by the record visits a tree mapping site received during lockdown. TreeTalk, which features the location and species of more than 700,000 trees in London, had a fiftyfold increase in visitors, with the site creating walks specific to users' locations, and revealing information about the trees you pass along your way – along with how rare they are. The natural world awaits!
13	Nearly 4 million books were sold the first week that shops reopened from lockdown in England. These sales had a value of nearly £33 million, and was a 31% increase in volume and value compared to the same week in 2019!
14	In February, Dublin became the first capital city in the world to have a zero-emissions postal service! With plans to roll out the scheme across all cities in Ireland by the end of the year, that's what you call delivering positive action.
15	The <u>World Health Organization</u> officially <u>declared wild polio eradicated in Africa</u> on August 25. “Ending wild polio virus in Africa is one of the greatest public health achievements of our time and provides powerful inspiration for all of us to finish the job of eradicating polio globally,” declared WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The virus used to paralyse an estimated 75,000 children annually across the continent.
16	A disabled 14-year-old girl from Columbia, Missouri, has inspired millions of people by proudly demonstrating her incredible invention on a TEDx stage – and as she sees it, the creation gives her superhero abilities. Following a STEM workshop, Jordan Reeves, whose left arm stopped developing from her elbow, created a prosthetic arm using a 3D-printer that shoots glitter! Jordan hopes that her 'Project Unicorn' design can encourage other youngsters with disabilities to see the possibilities in them, rather than as hindrances.
17	A couple from Dorset tied the knot in November, joining surnames to become Mr and Mrs White-Christmas. After their July wedding was postponed due to the pandemic, the childhood sweethearts finally wed in Bath.
18	After a two-month delay due to the pandemic, the world's largest rooftop farm opened in Paris in July! Sitting atop a six-storey building, the plot covers 14,000 square metres and is expected to produce around 1,000kg of fruit and vegetables every day.
19	Since being hunted to extinction 400 years ago, beavers miraculously appeared in Devon in 2013. After a study revealed their positive impact on the environment, the beavers have now been given the 'right to stay'

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One positive to come from the pandemic is seeing the growing connections in communities, as a study of 2,000 people by 'Remember a Charity' found that more than 50% have grown closer to their neighbours. It also revealed that just more than half of people believe that they are more appreciative of their local communities and charities due to Covid-19, and 47% are consciously choosing to value the smaller things in life.